

Cycling is a great way to keep fit whilst at the same time getting from A to B or exploring your local area.

The **Cyclesolihull** routes in this series of leaflets will take you along most of the network of quiet lanes in and around Solihull, introducing you to some places you probably didn't even know existed!

The routes have been carefully chosen to avoid busier roads so are ideal for new cyclists and children learning to cycle on the road.

You can cycle the routes alone or with family and friends, or join other people on one of the regular **Community Cycle Rides**.

CycletoSolihull Day



A chance to join other cyclists in Solihull town centre for a cycling afternoon. Join one of the special rides or simply head to the town centre on your bike. For details of this year's event go to:

www.cycletosolihullday.org.uk

This is one of a series of cycle ride leaflets produced by **Cyclesolihull** which is a voluntary organisation which aims to encourage people in the Solihull area to cycle more. Cyclesolihull organises free community rides, publicises routes and provides information about cycling.

Community Cycle Rides

Cyclesolihull offers regular opportunities to join with others to ride the routes in this series of leaflets. The rides are organised by volunteers and typically attract between 10 and 30 riders. To get involved, just turn up and ride!

Sunday Cycle Rides take place most Sunday afternoons at 2 pm throughout the summer* starting from one of a number of different starting points. "S" (short) routes are about 10 miles long, "M" (medium) routes about 15 miles long and "L" (long) routes about 20 miles long. On the second Sunday of the month* there is a 5 mile **Taster Ride**. This is an opportunity to try a Cyclesolihull ride without going very far and is an ideal introduction to the rides, especially for new cyclists and children.

Saturday Stretcher Rides take place twice-monthly* on Saturdays, starting at 9.30 am from one of 6 different starting points. They are 25 to 35 miles long and do not follow a fixed route, so are suitable for more experienced cyclists.

Evening Explorer Rides are on a midweek evening from mid-May to early August starting at 7 pm from one of 12 different starting points. They follow the shorter "S" routes so are about 10 miles long.

Refreshment Stops All Cyclesolihull rides have an en-route refreshment stop of about 30 minutes at a family-friendly pub or tearoom.

For details of the current programme go to:

www.cyclesolihull.org.uk

or pick up a copy of the **Cyclesolihull Ride Programme** on one of the rides.

* There is a reduced programme rides from November to February with Sunday rides starting at 1.30 pm.



S4

short route from
Dickens Heath

CycleSolihull

Explore your borough by bike



**11 miles via Forshaw Heath,
Tanworth & Earlswood**

Have fun and get fit exploring your local area with this self-guided cycle ride.

Route S4 Dickens Heath to Tanworth & Earlswood

Distance: 10 miles (60 to 75 mins).

Start: The library, Dickens Heath village centre, B90 1SD SP112763.

Parking: Behind shops in Main Street.

Route Summary: A ride along narrow country lanes through Forshaw Heath to Tanworth-in-Arden, a pretty hill village, and **Earlswood Lakes** which were constructed by French POWs from the Napoleonic Wars in the 1820s for water supply to the Stratford on Avon Canal.

Refreshments: In addition to facilities in Dickens Heath there is a cafe at **Earlswood Craft Centre** and three pubs and a shop along the route.

The Route

A From outside the **library** turn R past **Tesco** and bear first L, passing through the road closure. Continue SO for 1 mile.

B At the next crossroads carry SO on along **Rumbush Lane**. Continue for about 3 miles passing **Earlswood railway station** and crossing over the motorway.

C At the end of the road turn R onto the B4101 and after 200 yards L towards **Tanworth**. Follow the road, which becomes quite steep, up into **Tanworth-in-Arden**.

D In the village keep left, following signs to the Children's Farm. Passing the Bell pub in the centre of the village, go L past the church, eventually passing under the railway and up a steep hill.

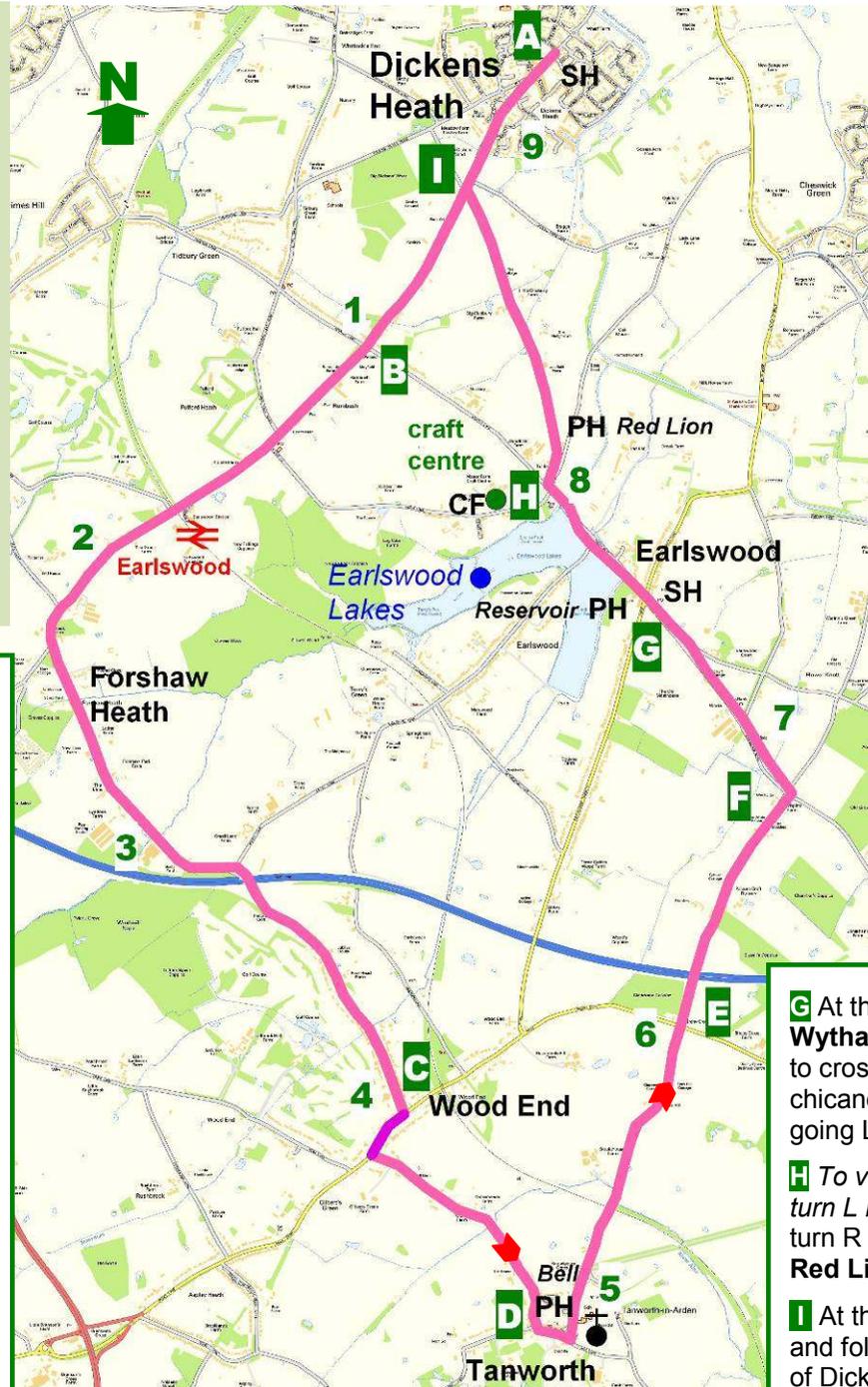
E At the crossroads with the **B4101** go SO into Tithe Barn Lane and over the motorway.

F Turn first L towards **Earlswood**.

G At the crossroads go SO into **Valley Rd** towards **Wythall**, passing the **Reservoir** pub. Bear next L to cross the lake dam. Go carefully past the chicane between the two lakes and continue SO going L at the end to reach a crossroads.

H To visit the café at **Earlswood Craft Centre**, turn L into **Wood Lane** for 200 yards. Otherwise turn R into **Lady Lane** and immediately L by the **Red Lion** into **Cleobury Lane**.

I At the crossroads go R into **Rumbush Lane** and follow the outbound route back into the centre of Dickens Heath.



Key to Map

- A B** Start and route reference point
- 1, 2** Mileage from start point
- Quiet road
- Busier road
- Cycle path
- Significant hill climb (in direction of travel)
- PH/CF** Public House/café or tearoom
- SH** Shop selling drinks, sweets etc
- Notable church
- Place of interest/water feature

Abbreviations used in the route description:
L left, R right, SO straight on.

To cycle this route, memorise the instructions between each reference point, relating the turns to the map. The place and road names in **bold** appear on signs along the route.

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